UNITED NATIONS

DP

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme and of the United Nations Population Fund

Distr.
GENERAL

DP/1994/2
18 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Second regular session 1994
10-13 May 1994, New York

REPORT ON THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION NEW YORK, 15-18 FEBRUARY 1994

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, the Economic and Social Council on 4 February 1994 elected the following 36 members to the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA for a term expiring on 31 December of the year indicated:

African States: Cameroon (1994); Congo (1994); Gambia (1994); Lesotho (1994); Morocco (1996); Sierra Leone (1996); Somalia (1994); Sudan (1995).

Asian States: Bangladesh (1996); China (1994); India (1995); Pakistan (1996); Papua New Guinea (1994); Philippines (1994); Republic of Korea (1995).

Eastern European States: Bulgaria (1995); Poland (1996); Russian Federation (1995); Slovak Republic (1994).

Latin American and Caribbean States: Argentina (1995); Cuba (1994); Peru (1996); Trinidad and Tobago (1996); Uruguay (1995).

Western European and Other States. Belgium (1996); Canada (1994); Denmark (1996); France (1994); Germany (1994); Italy (1995); Japan (1996); New Zealand (1995); Norway (1994); Portugal (1996); United Kingdom (1995); United States of America (1995).

A. Opening of the meeting

2. On 15 February 1994, the first meeting of the first regular session of the new Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA was declared open by the last President of the Governing Council, Ambassador Rabah Hadid (Algeria). He congratulated all the newly elected 36 members of the Board and expressed the hope that member States not elected to the new Executive Board would be given the opportunity to remain in close contact with the work of the Programme and the Executive Board and be kept informed about all activities in which they had an interest.

3. Ambassador Hadid paid special tribute to the Associate Administrator of UNDP, Mr. Luis María Gómez, who had resigned effective 15 February 1994. He expressed profound admiration for Luis María Gómez's outstanding contributions to the United Nations system and UNDP in particular. Ambassador Hadid, as well as the following speakers, praised the Associate Administrator for his devotion, integrity, competence, efficiency, total commitment and loyalty, intelligence, experience and, not least, frankness and unfailing sense of humour.

4. A member proposed a decision as a tribute to the Associate Administrator and the Executive Board adopted by acclamation its first decision:

94/1. Expression of appreciation to Mr. Luis María Gómez, Associate Administrator of UNDP, 1990-1994

The Executive Board

Notes with regret that Mr. Luis María Gómez, Associate Administrator since 1990, is resigning and wishes to thank him most sincerely for the dedicated, highly effective and good humoured way in which he made an exceptional contribution to the work of the United Nations Development Programme. The Executive Board wishes him and his family every success in the future: Good luck Luis!

15 February 1994

B. Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board

5. The Executive Board agreed to the following two proposals of the President:

(a) Until the transformation process has been completed and new rules of procedure have been adopted, the Executive Board would follow the rules of procedure of the former Governing Council in such cases where the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162 were not sufficient.

(b) The Executive Board would elect a Bureau consisting of a President and four Vice-Presidents with due account taken of the need to ensure equitable geographical representation. According to the previously established pattern of rotation of posts among the various regional groups, the President of the Executive Board for 1994 should be elected from among the Asian States that were members of the Board.

The Executive Board elected, by acclamation, the following Bureau for 1994:

President	H.E. Mr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari (India)
Vice-President	H.E. Mr. Valentin Dobrev (Bulgaria)
Vice-President	Mr. R. Carlos Sersale di Cerisano (Argentina)
Vice-President	Mr. Momodou Kebba Jallow (Gambia)
Vice-President	Ms. Elisabeth Jacobsen (Norway)

6. The newly elected President of the Executive Board, Ambassador Ansari, expressed commitment to the establishment of a completely new set of ground rules for the future functioning of the Executive Board, based on General Assembly resolution 48/162, so that it would be functional as well as beneficial. The same commitment was expressed by the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA in their introductory remarks.

7. The Executive Director of UNFPA referred to the draft Programme of Action for the International Conference on Population and Development, scheduled to be

held in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. The Conference would make its views known to the General Assembly regarding the need for a separate Executive Board for UNFPA. She also underlined UNFPA's flexibility concerning the allocation of agenda items among the annual session and the regular sessions of the Executive Board during 1994.

C. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Executive Board adopted the following agenda for the session, as contained in document DP/1994/L.1:

Item 1. Opening of the meeting

Item 2. Election of the Bureau of the Executive Board

Item 3. Adoption of the agenda

Item 4. Organization of the work of the Executive Board

Item 5. HIV and Development: National Professional Officers

Item 6. Other matters

II. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

9. The deliberations of this item fell into three parts: (a) questions relating to the meeting and work schedule for 1994; (b) working methods; (c) rules of procedure.

A. Questions relating to the meeting and work schedule for 1994

Schedule of meetings

10. The Executive Board had a lengthy discussion of its meeting schedule, which included a discussion of venue of the annual meeting. The Board agreed to meet at Geneva for the 1994 annual meeting as previously decided by the Governing Council in its decision 93/45 of 17 June 1993. However, it was made clear that the decision to meet at Geneva related only to 1994 and that the decision was taken without prejudice for future discussions of the venue issue. The Board adopted the following decision:

94/2. Future sessions of the Executive Board

The Executive Board

Agrees to the following schedule of future meetings of the Board subject to the approval of the Committee on Conferences and, in case of the October meeting, of the General Assembly:

(a) A regular session from 10 to 13 May 1994 in New York;

(b) The annual session from 6 to 17 June 1994 at Geneva with UNDP subjects to be taken up during the first week of the session and subjects relating to UNFPA and United Nations technical cooperation activities to be taken up during the second week;

(c) A regular session of three days' duration beginning around 6 October 1994 in New York, immediately following the conclusion of the G-77 meeting;

(d) The first regular session 1995 from 10 to 13 January 1995 in New York.

16 and 18 February 1994

11. The Executive Board also agreed to have an informal briefing with participation of Resident Representatives on 18 March 1994.

Division of labour between the annual sessions and the regular sessions

12. There was agreement on the following general guidelines for division of labour between the annual session and the regular sessions:

Annual session: Should feature mainly discussions on important issues and issues of wide interest, such as: annual report/address of the Administrator/Executive Director; issues related to resources (sixth cycle, Special Programme Resources); implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/199; topical issues as determined at regular sessions (such as the future of UNDP); United Nations technical cooperation activities; as appropriate, issues such as "New Agenda for Africa" and "Human Development Report";

Regular sessions: country programmes; budgetary and administrative matters; sectoral issues, such as HIV and Development; regional issues; humanitarian issues; monitoring and evaluation of the organizations's work and functioning; agency support costs; contribution to and follow-up of Conferences;

Both annual and regular sessions: new initiatives; implementation of Economic and Social Council decisions; environmental issues; Office for Project Services (OPS).

13. In accordance with these guidelines, the Executive Board agreed on a division of labour among the three sessions to be held in May, June and October 1994, respectively, and subjects to be discussed at each session. It was agreed that UNFPA subjects in 1994 should be discussed mainly at the annual session, taking into consideration the extensive preparations required for the International Conference on Population and Development, 5-13 September 1994.

14. The subjects to be discussed in May, June and October 1994 are listed in the annex.

Field visits 1994

15. The Executive Board agreed that the Bureau of the Board should decide on dates for field visits. The Board took note that the three visits considered in 1994 were the following:

Two visits from 25 April to 6 May: one to Philippines and Viet Nam, and the other to the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Jordan.

16. A third visit to take place in the latter part of August to two African countries would be considered.

B. Questions relating to working methods of the Executive Board

17. The President of the Board mentioned that the motivation behind the creation of the Executive Board was efficiency and practicality. The working methods of the Board should therefore be functional and businesslike. Flexibility was needed to determine future meeting and work schedules. There was general agreement that the number of regular sessions should be a function of the workload of the Executive Board in a given year.

18. There was agreement that new working methods were needed if the Board were to be able to cope with the many subjects on the agendas for May, June and October. References were made to the new spirit and new culture that had seemed to emerge during the session. Decisions were successfully adopted in new, simplified ways. Important practical steps were agreed on to change the working methods concerning records and documentation. The secretariat took note of concrete proposals and ideas presented. Representatives were encouraged to forward additional proposals on working methods in writing to the secretariat as soon as possible, so that a note could be prepared to enable a continuation of the discussion of working methods during the second regular session, 10-13 May 1994.

Records

19. The President drew the attention of the Executive Board to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 48/222 B of 23 December 1993, in which the General Assembly "encourages all bodies currently entitled to written meeting records to review the need for such records, particularly verbatim records, and to communicate their recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session". The Board adopted the following decision:

94/3. Summary records

The Executive Board

Decides to replace the summary records for the regular sessions of the Board with a report prepared by the secretariat, which will also contain the decisions taken by the Board. This report will be distributed to all

members of the Programme a few weeks after the session and will be approved at the following session of the Board.

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20. A decision concerning summary records for the annual sessions would not be taken before the 1994 annual session. A representative proposed that for future sessions efforts should be made to provide a draft report at the end of those sessions.

Documentation

21. There was general agreement that the documentation provided for the Executive Board sessions should be brief, focused and issue-oriented. On this basis, the Board adopted the following decision:

94/4. Format of reports

The Executive Board

Decides that reports from the secretariat shall normally consist of no more than three pages and include sections identifying the objective of the report, means of implementation and the decision requested of the Board. Where unavoidable, additional information shall be provided in an annex or addendum to the report.

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Meeting facilities

22. The Secretary of the Executive Board informed the Board that UNDP had been reviewing ways in which it could accommodate the Board within its present headquarters premises in order to comply with paragraph 21 of General Assembly resolution 48/162, annex I.

23. The allocation of 50 per cent of a floor in the DC-1 building for the Executive Board room would provide adequate meeting space for Board members, one support staff per member, observers, and members of the secretariat. However, a board room of this size in the DC-1 building, accommodating 80-100 persons, would have some limitations that should be considered. The view within the room would be obstructed by bearing pillars. Furthermore, irrespective of the room size, the ceiling height in the DC-1 building would require that smaller-than-standard translation booths be installed. Estimated costs for this first proposal were approximately $800,000. An estimated additional amount of $300,000 per annum would be required for renting space for organizational units that would be displaced. The figures provided were of a very preliminary nature.

24. The Executive Board was also informed that UNDP/UNFPA in New York were currently dispersed over five separate locations and that the Coordination

Committee on Common Premises, chaired by the United Nations Secretariat, had tentatively identified a building in the vicinity of the United Nations as a potential consolidated site for common premises to which all units of UNDP and its associated funds, UNFPA and parts of UNICEF could be relocated within two years. As a tentative provisional solution pending the move to a new building, the option of sharing joint Executive Board facilities with UNICEF was mentioned.

25. The Executive Board took into account the statement by the Secretary and the estimated costs presented. The Board would observe with great interest the deliberation in the UNICEF Executive Board the following week regarding the issue of meeting facilities. The question of future headquarters premises of UNDP and UNFPA would also have to be taken into account and a progress report on the matter should be provided at the next regular session.

C. Rules of procedure of the Executive Board

26. The Executive Board had a preliminary discussion of rules of procedure. Some delegations pointed out that the rules of procedure of the Governing Council, which were not very detailed, had not been used very often. It was also pointed out that there was no urgency in the matter and that the Executive Board would gradually learn its own needs also in that respect. Delegations identified issues that needed careful consideration: the question of permanent committees or ad hoc committees; languages; observers; venue.

27. The secretariat took note of the various proposals made and delegations were encouraged to forward more proposals in writing to the secretariat. The Executive Board agreed that the matter should be taken up again both at the May session and at the June session. The secretariat was requested to prepare draft rules of procedure for a preliminary discussion in May.

III. BUILDING A NEW UNDP: AGENDA FOR CHANGE

28. On 17 February 1994, the Administrator gave an extensive initial presentation of ideas and recommendations for strengthening and repositioning UNDP, entitled: "Building a new UNDP: Agenda for change". The statement of the Administrator was distributed.

29. Following the presentation, many delegations took the floor and broad support was given to the ideas and objectives the Administrator had outlined. Representatives expressed their satisfaction that a discussion of the future of UNDP had been launched in such a perceptive and thought-provoking manner and many looked forward to a full discussion of the subject at the 1994 annual session, when the comprehensive thoughts presented by the Administrator would have been better digested.

30. It was stated that the Administrator had provided a solid analysis, giving the right direction in which UNDP should move. The goals and the activities outlined were broadly considered to be right and consistent with the six areas

of focus identified in paragraph 7 of Governing Council decision 90/34 and other mandates previously given by the Council.

31. Representatives expressed agreement concerning the need for change, the need to be more substantive and the need for a stronger focus. It was important to define the three objectives so that they were mutually supportive. It was also important to benefit from the synergies possible among the various components of the United Nations system.

32. Some representatives said that they would welcome more information on how the broad strategies could be translated into detailed policies and programmes and how the mission and the goals identified could be operationalized. Other representatives addressed issues such as countries in transition, sustainable food security and priorities at the field level.

33. The President of the Executive Board said in his summing up that the Administrator had given a powerful presentation of his agenda for change. It had made a great impact and the ideas presented were generally welcomed by the Board.

IV. HIV AND DEVELOPMENT: NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL OFFICERS

34. The Executive Board reviewed the approval in principle, given by the Governing Council in paragraph 23 of its decision 93/35 of 18 June 1993, of the establishment of a limited network of up to 22 National Officer posts to support the role of the Resident Coordinator/Resident Representative in the national response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In an oral introduction of the item, the secretariat gave additional information to that contained in the documentation provided (DP/1994/5).

35. A number of representatives expressed support for the establishment of the network of national professional officers as soon as possible. Some representatives added that they could support the immediate establishment of the network provided that the role of the national professional officers would be fully compatible with the proposed joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and that the decision on placement would be taken with the other proposed co-sponsors of the programme.

36. Other representatives expressed a preference for a decision at a later stage, when the Board would have more information on the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS and how the national professional officers would fit into it.

37. Informal consultations took place on the issue. Before the adoption of the decision, the Assistant Administrator and Director, BPPE, provided clarifications requested by some delegations:

(a) The decision before the Board was not in any way binding on delegations as to the actual outcome of the negotiations on a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS. It simply stated that a

joint co-sponsored programme was desirable and that the Board wanted its decision to be in conformity and consistent with such a programme;

(b) Assurances were given that UNDP would integrate its programme and that it would be complimentary to, and non-duplicative of, existing activities of other United Nations programmes.

38. The Executive Board adopted the following decision:

94/5. HIV and Development: National Professional Officers

The Executive Board

Authorizes the Administrator to complete the hiring of 22 National Officer posts as per Governing Council decision 93/35 on the condition that:

(a) The HIV/AIDS Inter-Agency Working Group reviews the terms of reference and proposed locations of these 22 positions and agrees in writing that they are consistent with a longer-term staffing strategy compatible with the establishment of a joint co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;

(b) The contracts will be of a six-month duration only and will be reviewed by the Executive Board at its October 1994 session before further approval is given;

(c) The Administrator gives firm assurances to the Executive Board that any activity of the Programme now and in the future will be fully integrated with, complementary to, and non-duplicative of existing activities of other United Nations agencies in this field and fully compatible with a joint co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS;

(d) The United Nations Development Programme treat with urgency negotiation of a joint co-sponsored programme on HIV/AIDS and bring to the May regular session of the Executive Board further information on how it will integrate its activities in HIV/AIDS with such a programme so that the Executive Board can work towards a recommendation of a joint co-sponsored programme to the Economic and Social Council no later than July 1994.

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V. OTHER MATTERS

39. Several members suggested that very informal consultations on the Office for Project Services should be initiated before the regular session in May 1994. It was agreed to leave it to interested delegations to arrange for such consultations.

Annex

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA: CLUSTERING OF SUBJECTS AT FUTURE SESSIONS IN 1994

I. CLUSTERING OF SUBJECTS AT THE SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 10-13 MAY 1994

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Steps taken to clarify the modalities for the transfer of the Office for Project Services: Report of the Secretary-General (93/46, para. 6)	DP/1994/27

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ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

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ITEM 6: EVALUATION

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ITEM 7: OTHER FUNDS AND PROGRAMMES

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United Nations International Short-Term Advisory Resources (92/2, para. 6)	DP/1994/31
United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development, United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration and Transfer of Knowledge through Expatriate Nationals (92/2, para. 6)	DP/1994/29
United Nations Capital Development Fund: Options and modalities for mobilizing additional resources as well as ways and means for closer cooperation with other multilateral financing institutions (93/32, para. 4)	DP/1994/33

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS

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ITEM 2: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR AND RELATED MATTERS

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Role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (93/17, para. 12)	DP/1994/12

ITEM 3: FUTURE OF UNDP

Future of UNDP	DP/1994/39 a/

a/ To be issued following the Administrator's address.

ITEM 4: MATTERS RELATING TO THE PROGRAMMING CYCLES

Mid-term review of (a) the programme planning aspects for the fifth programming cycle and (b) the resources available and the financial management of the fifth programming cycle (90/34, para. 1) — DP/1994/18

This will include:

- The level of the Operational Reserve (90/34, para. 16);
- The allocation for TSS-1 (91/32, para. 9);
- The issue of the regional indicative planning figure (91/30, para. 1); and
- Information on the implementation of decision 90/34, paras. 7-8 concerning capacity-building and capacity-strengthening in the six areas of focus (90/34, para. 9)

Information on any revised basic data relating to indicative planning figures for new recipients (93/22, para. 1)	
Review of the subcategories of the Special Programme Resources (91/54, para. 17)	DP/1994/19
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ITEM 5: LOCATION OF UNDP/UNFPA HEADQUARTERS

Proposal concerning location of United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Population Fund headquarters (93/41, para. 5)	DP/1994/38

ITEM 6: UNFPA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PROGRAMME-LEVEL ACTIVITIES

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ITEM 8: UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations technical cooperation activities (93/30, para. 8)	DP/1994/26
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ITEM 9: OTHER MATTERS

III. CLUSTERING OF SUBJECTS AT THE THIRD REGULAR SESSION TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR 6-10 OCTOBER 1994

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Report of the 1994 annual session	DP/1994/55

ITEM 2: AGENCY SUPPORT COSTS

Agency support costs (91/32, in particular para. 33, and 93/25, paras. 9 and 11). This will include the review of the functioning of the new agency support costs system (90/26, para. 22 and 91/32, para. 34); in accordance with 91/34, para. 4 as well as 93/6, para. 2, the sectoral support programme will be reviewed in this context.	DP/1994/23

ITEM 3: COUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND RELATED MATTERS

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(b) Implementation of paragraphs 15 and 16 of decision 93/35, II (93/35, II, para. 17);

(c) A comprehensive report on experience gained with the piloting of short-term, non-permanent contracts, including consultations held with the International Civil Service Commission (93/35, II, para. 30 and 92/37, para. 13).

Report of ACABQ on the revised budget estimates for the biennium 1994-1995	DP/1994/36
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ITEM 6: UNFPA FINANCIAL, BUDGETARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

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ITEM 7: FOLLOW-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development

ITEM 8: OTHER MATTERS